

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

STATE OF NEW MEXICO,

Plaintiff,

vs.

No. CIV 01-1401 LCS/KM

JUDITH DORADO,

Defendant.

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S PROPOSED FINDINGS
AND RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION**

THIS MATTER came before the Court on Defendant's Notice of Removal, filed December 12, 2001. The United States Magistrate Judge, having reviewed the record, relevant authorities, and being otherwise fully advised, finds that Defendant's Notice of Removal is not well-taken and recommends that this matter be remanded to the Lea County Magistrate Court, State of New Mexico.

PROPOSED FINDINGS

1. Defendant seeks to remove a criminal case, No. M-26-FR-0200100169, from the Lea County Magistrate Court, State of New Mexico.¹ 28 U.S.C. § 1443(1) and (2) provide as follows:

Any of the following civil actions or criminal prosecutions, commenced in a State court may be removed by the defendant to the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place wherein it is pending:

- (1) Against any such person who is denied or cannot enforce in the courts of such State and right under any law providing for the equal civil rights of citizens of the United States, or of all persons within the jurisdiction thereof;

¹ Defendant apparently attempted to remove a prior state criminal case under the name of Judith Dorado. *State of New Mexico v. Judith Dorado*, CIV 00-0042 LCS.

- (2) For any act under color of authority derived from any law providing for equal rights, or for refusing to do any act on the ground that it would be inconsistent with such law.

28 U.S.C. § 1443 (1) and (2).

2. The procedure for removal of a criminal action under 28 U.S.C. § 1443 is governed by 28 U.S.C. § 1446 (c). If it clearly appears in the face of the notice and any exhibits annexed thereto that removal should not be permitted, the court shall make and order for summary remand. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1446 (c)(4).

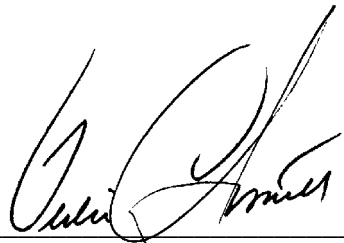
3. “[S]ubsection [two] of the removal statute is available only to federal officers and persons assisting such officers in the performance of the official duties.” *City of Greenwood v. Peacock*, 384 U.S. 808, 815 (1966). Because Defendant does not claim to be a federal officer or a person assisting such an officer in the performance of official duties, removal should not be permitted under 28 U.S.C. § 1443 (2).

4. In order to satisfy the requirements 28 U.S.C. § 1443 (1), Defendant must satisfy a two-pronged test. *See Johnson v. Mississippi*, 421 U.S. 213, 219 (1975). First, Defendant must identify a right allegedly denied that arises under a federal law providing for specific civil rights. *See Georgia v. Rachel*, 394 U.S. 780, 788 (1966). Second, Defendant must establish that she is being denied or cannot enforce that right in the state courts. *See id.* Because it clearly appears that Defendant’s Notice of Removal fails to satisfy the requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 1443(1), this matter should be remanded pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(c)(4). In the alternative, as the requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 1443(1) and (2) have not been met, this case should be remanded for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c) (“If at any time before final judgment it appears that the district court lacks subject matter jurisdiction, the case shall be remanded.”)

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

I recommend that this case be remanded to the Lea County Magistrate Court, State of New Mexico.

Timely objections to the foregoing may be made pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(b)(1)(C). Within ten days after a party is served with a copy of these proposed findings and recommended disposition that party may, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §636(b)(1)(C), file written objections to such proposed findings and recommended disposition with the Clerk of the United States District Court, 333 Lomas Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102. A party must file any objections within the ten day period allowed if that party wants to have appellate review of the proposed findings and recommended disposition. If no objections are filed, no appellate review will be allowed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie C. Smith', is written over a horizontal line.

LESLIE C. SMITH
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE